

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~US 3,070,450~~ US 3,970,450 discloses alloys formed from a base of pure iridium or iridium-0.3wt%W, to which small amounts each of aluminium, iron, nickel, rhodium and thorium are added. The alloys are useful for the encapsulation of radioactive sources so the use of thorium can be tolerated. Thorium containing alloys are not usually suitable for general application.